

In the Claims

Claims are amended as follows:

1-10 (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A method of routing calls in a telecommunications network comprising a plurality of routing nodes, the nodes being hierarchically structured in at least two levels of hierarchy hierarchy, with a first level of the hierarchy comprising a first group of nodes and a second level of the hierarchy comprising at least the first group of nodes from the first level, the method comprising performing the following steps in which routing of calls employs the method of claim 1 at each of at least at two distinct levels of the hierarchy, hierarchy:
receiving a call set-up request comprising an indication of at least one node through which the set-up request has passed;
retrieving previously stored call routing information;
routing the call set-up request responsive to a comparison between the indication and the previously stored call routing information;
and when performing the method at the second level of the hierarchy the indication of at least one node through which the set-up request has passed refers to the group of nodes in the first level of the hierarchy without specifying the routing within that group.

12 -14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A telecommunications signal for transmission in a telecommunications network comprising a plurality of routing nodes which are structured in at least two levels of hierarchy, with a first level of the hierarchy comprising a group of nodes and a second level of the hierarchy comprising at least the group of nodes from the first level, the signal comprising a call set-up request

comprising a trail log for use in routing the call set-up request, the trail log comprising a list of groups in the second level of the hierarchy through which the request has passed without specifying the routing within each group.

16. (canceled)

17. (new) A method according to claim 11 in which at least one of the routing nodes is a Private Branch Exchange.

18. (new) A method according to claim 11 in which the indication of previously passed nodes comprises a bit sequence, each bit of which uniquely identifies a network node.

19. (new) A method according to claim 11 in which the call set-up request further comprises an indication that the call set-up request relates to a non-primary routed call.

20. (new) A method according to claim 19 in which the indication that the call set-up request relates to a non-primary routed call precedes the indication of at least one node.

21. (new) A method according to claim 11 in which the call set-up request further comprises an indication of a destination node distinct from the routing node.

22. (new) A method according to claim 11 in which the call set-up request comprises an indication of at least two nodes through which the set-up request has passed.

23. (new) A method according to claim 11 in which the call set-up request comprises an indication of all nodes through which the set-up request has passed.

24. (new) A method according to claim 11 in which the routing node itself comprises a plurality of component nodes.

25. (new) A method according to claim 11 in which the step of receiving employs a first communication protocol and in which the step of routing employs a second communication protocol distinct from the first communications protocol.

26. (new) A telecommunications network comprising a plurality of routing nodes, the nodes being hierarchically structured in at least two levels of hierarchy, with a first level of the hierarchy comprising a first group of nodes and a second level of the hierarchy comprising at least the first group of nodes from the first level, the network being arranged to perform the method according to claim 11.